AGENDA
Harris County Republican Party
Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2017

Harris County Republican Party Headquarters
7232 Wynnwood Lane, Houston, Texas 77008

6:00 pm: Refreshments – Sponsored by Harris County Commissioner Jack Mormon

6:15 pm: Senatorial District Caucuses to fill SD positions on indicated Committees:
SD 6: Accounting Review, Candidates, & Vacancy Committees
SD 7: Military Partnership & Candidates Committees
SD 17: Candidates Committee

7:00 pm: Call to Order

1. Invocation / Pledges of Allegiance / National Anthem

2. Certification of Quorum

3. Review and Approval of Minutes of February 2017 Executive Committee meeting

4. Treasurer’s Report

5. Chairman’s Update

6. Committee Reports (NOTE: Committees not needing a vote or response from the Executive Committee will provide only written reports)

7. Reports

8. New Business
   a. Submission of Chairman’s Appointments for Approval
   b. Other New Business

9. Adjourn
The Quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Harris County Republican Party was held Monday, February 6, 2017 at Harris County Republican Party Headquarters, 7232 Wynnwood Lane, Houston, TX 77008 with County Chairman Paul Simpson presiding. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The Prayer was led by HCRP Chaplain, Beverly Ferguson. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Harris County Clerk – Stan Stanart, and the Pledge to the Texas flag was led by Harris County District Clerk, Chris Daniel. HCLC Fellow, Catherine Whiteford led the National Anthem. Secretary certified that with 474 Precinct Chairs on the roll, 119 were needed for a quorum. There were 170 present. The minutes were requested to be amended to add “SD 17 Chairman” on line 2 under New Business after Jim Hotze and before PCT. 665. By Robert Appleby, PCT 282. Robert Sumicek, PCT 645 seconded and approved as corrected. Treasurer report was given by Cindy Siegel. The Chair commented on the following: Presented a number of slides/statistics to address Harris County 2016 November elections results. A Baytown HCRP office will be opening soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Committee reports not needing a vote from the Executive Committee to approve action have been included as written reports in the handout.

Vacancy Committee given by Ralph Fite moved to include all recommendations from the Vacancy Committee. Chairman Simpson - Recommend to approve all submitted recommendations: All in favor / No Nay’s; Justice Kevin Jewel (14th Court of Appeals Place 2) administered the oath of office to the newly approved recommended Precinct Chairs.

Ballot Security given by Alan Vera report also on Page 8 of meeting packet. Local Government Committee report given by Dan Comstock discussed eminent domain issue. Special Report by Bob Hall (Appointed Assistant to Chairman Simpson) Bob’s duties include: Get out the vote; recruit new precinct chairs, outreach, training.

NEW BUSINESS

Rolando Garcia made a motion to approve Chairman’s Committee appointments. Motion was seconded by: Butch Davis. Motion passed.

Bruce Campbell PCT 463 - Introduced a Resolution on Election Legislation in the 85th Session. Motion was seconded by: PCT 650 - Glenn Sommers. Resolution was passed unanimously.

Precinct Chair Scott Bowen – moved to bring eminent domain issue resolution bring out of Local Government committee to floor. Motion was seconded by Larry Korkmas. Point of Order by Bonnie Lugo. Speaking against Motion was Precinct Chair 665 Shannon Terry. Speaking in favor of motion: PCT 492 – Thomas Korkmas/ can a private entity take private property for their use? POI – Bonnie Lugo - PCT 223 /-- was sent to committee – need to take out if not does it make resolution null/void. Paul – remains in committee until report is resubmitted it will do in May 2017. Motion to discharge committee – 2/3 vote to discharge and take issue back: Standing vote: Ayes’ - Nay’s – Passed -- Motion fails

Precinct Chair Betty Avery PCT 39 introduces Resolution to Honor WW II Veteran. Seconded by Marvin Cleade. Resolution passes unanimously.
Precinct Chair Joseph Reynolds introduces City of Houston Pension Resolution. Seconded by Ken Williams. Precinct Chair Scott Bowen makes an amendment to strike bullet 2 from words: approved by ALL VOTERS. Seconded by Beth Akin. Amendment passes. Resolution passed as amended.

Clint Moore introduces Resolution Requesting Our Legislators to Preserve, Protect, and Defend State Representative’s Negative Points in “Scoring” Subsidized Low Income Housing Applications2nd: Kelly Horsley. Resolution pass unanimously.

Russell Rush introduced HB1184 Resolution. Seconded by Matthew Bernstein. Resolution passed

Precinct Chair Drake Cameron introduced Resolution to Eliminate Multilingual Ballots. Seconded by John Toppass. Resolution passed as submitted.


HB771 Resolution introduced by Precinct Chair (70) Joe Pelati. Seconded by Gene Pack. POO – Butch Davis – endorsements of party – look at bylaws - resubmit as proposed bylaws at next meeting – also send to rules committee.

SB2 Resolution introduced by Precinct Chair Grant Dunwoody. Seconded by Tom Bazan. Resolution passed as submitted.

Motion to Adjourn: SD 17 Chairman/PCT. 128 – Jim Hotze Time: 9:33 pm.
Proposed Bylaws Amendment

The Rules Committee voted unanimously to recommend the following bylaw amendment, which will be considered by the Executive Committee at the meeting on May 1, 2017:

CURRENT BYLAWS PROVISION

Article IX, Section 2 - Executive Committee as Final Authority: The Executive Committee is the final authority on all public policy positions of endorsements of the Harris County Republican Party. No HCRP officer, executive committee member, committee chairman, contractor, employee or anyone associated with the HCRP may communicate any official position, policy or endorsement of the HCRP either verbally or in writing or use the HCRP's letterhead, logo or name in any communication to the media or to the public indicating an official position of the HCRP without an affirmative vote of the Executive Committee at any regular or special meeting, a quorum being present. An individual may be identified by his/her HCRP title in any personal endorsement.

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Add the following new subsection “A” in Article IX, section 2, after the first paragraph:

“A. Exception: Between Executive Committee meetings, the Advisory Board may, by a two-thirds vote at an Advisory Board meeting, endorse a candidate in a nonpartisan election. Any such endorsement must not conflict with any position of the Executive Committee, and may be overturned by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.”

NEW LANGUAGE IF PROPOSED AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED

Article IX, Section 2 - Executive Committee as Final Authority: The Executive Committee is the final authority on all public policy positions of endorsements of the Harris County Republican Party. No HCRP officer, executive committee member, committee chairman, contractor, employee or anyone associated with the HCRP may communicate any official position, policy or endorsement of the HCRP either verbally or in writing or use the HCRP's letterhead, logo or name in any communication to the media or to the public indicating an official position of the HCRP without an affirmative vote of the Executive Committee at any regular or special meeting, a quorum being present. An individual may be identified by his/her HCRP title in any personal endorsement.

A. Exception: Between Executive Committee meetings, the Advisory Board may, by a two-thirds vote at an Advisory Board meeting, endorse a candidate in a nonpartisan election. Any such endorsement must not conflict with any position of the Executive Committee, and may be overturned by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

REASON FOR AMENDMENT

The proposal acknowledges the final authority of the Executive Committee while making it possible for the Advisory Board to endorse a candidate in a nonpartisan election, in situations when the Executive Committee is not scheduled to meet in time to make an endorsement. This will allow the party to commit resources to races, especially nonpartisan runoff elections, in time to impact the outcome. The language protects the prerogative and authority of the Executive Committee while allowing flexibility in situations where a late endorsement would amount to no endorsement.
Chairman’s Committee appointments to be submitted for approval at meeting:
Candidates Committee: David Gratvol
Engagement Committee: Shane Gilroy; Lawrence Joseph McGaffie II
Rules Committee: David M. Wilson

Vacancy Committee Recommendations to HCRP Executive Committee:
The Vacancy Committee has recommended the following candidates to fill vacant Precinct Chair positions for approval by the Harris County Republican Executive Committee on May 1, 2017:

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<tr>
<th>Pct. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>VUID</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>HD</th>
<th>Primary Voting History ('16, '14, '12, '10, '08,)</th>
<th>2016 Presidential Vote</th>
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<td>Christina Cicack</td>
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<td>148</td>
<td>R, D, -, -, -</td>
<td>Trump- 222 Clinton- 536</td>
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<td>397</td>
<td>Donna LaVoie</td>
<td>1107681546</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>140</td>
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<td>889</td>
<td>Nolan Shultz</td>
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<td>142</td>
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<td>245</td>
<td>Matthew Skaggs</td>
<td>1144474428</td>
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<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td>803</td>
<td>Roman Gawel</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>R, -, -, -</td>
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<tr>
<td>874</td>
<td>DeeAnn LaRue</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<td>Seth Riley</td>
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<td>Bennett Randin</td>
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<td>364</td>
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<td>149</td>
<td>-, -, -, -, -</td>
<td>Trump- 524 Clinton- 1,701</td>
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Christina Cicak (SD 6, Pct. 207) Christina has applied for Precinct Chair in the Lindale Park community east of I-45 and south of Loop 610, a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood in which Democrat official, Sylvia Garcia, lives. Christina’s conversion to the Republican Party and conservative government coincides with her embrace of a fundamental Christian lifestyle. Christina is a member of Grace Bible Church. She has 3 children ages: 4, 8 & 10 and has home schooled them for 1 1/2 years. Her professional life has been in marketing and advertising and she wants to work to prevent the further erosion of conservative family values.

Donna LaVoie (SD 6, Pct. 397) Donna was an early and enthusiastic supporter of President Trump and his campaign inspired her to become engaged in the political process for the first time. She wholeheartedly threw herself into the 2016 cycle and block-walked and organized sign waves for Trump and the Republican ticket. She is also a member of Kingwood Area Republican Women. Donna’s views are strongly conservative and her outgoing, upbeat personality convinced the committee she would be an effective representative of the Republican Party in her neighborhood.

Nolan Shultz (SD 6, Pct 889) - Not previously politically active, Nolan, age 27, got involved in Students for Trump. He became a Deputy Voter Registrar, encouraged by Trump’s focus on this country and his efforts to repeal and replace Obamacare. Nolan started out at Houston Community College and later became a student at University of Houston. He has worked as a waiter at the Karbach Brewery and serves as a journalist for the Millennial Post, for which he purports to have 53,000 followers. He will be an asset for HCRP in helping to identify other like-minded voters in the young professional multifamily units to the east of Minute Maid Park and around the BBVA Compass Professional Soccer Stadium in Precinct 889.

Matt Skaggs (SD 7, Pct 245)- Matthew Skaggs has lived in his Tomball Area neighborhood for 10 years. He spent some earlier years in Colorado where he worked for some Republican candidates. He and his wife are parents of an adopted 24-year-old and have a set of younger triplets. Matthew describes his business as helping source capital for various clients. He recently helped run an election in another precinct.

Roman Gawel (SD 7, Pct 803) – Roman was born and raised in communist Poland. He is saddened by the many trends he sees in our country that are detrimental to democracy and prosperity. He feels a silent/bloodless revolution is in progress and the present new Administration may be the last chance to save that with the help of citizens at the grass roots level and hence his desire for involvement as a HCRP Precinct Chair. Roman attained his U.S. Citizenship in 1989. He is now retired from the oilfield service business and looks forward to serving in Precinct 803 in the NW Houston Copperfield Area.

DeeAnee LaRue (SD 7, Pct 874) DeeAnn has been actively involved in Texas Tea Party Republican Women and has served as that group’s Treasurer. She has been serving as an Election Judge or Clerk since November 2014. She enjoys working at her local precinct level and having the opportunity to engage with her neighbors. DeeAnn wants to keep in touch with her community and remain involved in her subdivision in the Cypresswood Area, where she has lived for the last 8 years. She has worked as a bookkeeper and has 3 children. DeeAnn is prolife and believes in traditional marriage.
Seth Riley (SD 7, Pct 903) - Seth has been an active volunteer in the Northwest Harris County Republican Party Office. His parents are divorced and he now lives with his dad in the Tomball area, where Seth attends Tomball Memorial High School. He has no voting record, because he just turned 18. Upon high school graduation, he plans on attending Lone Star College, where he will remain in his dad's home and continue to represent his precinct. A self-described Fundamental Christian, Seth most enjoys his social studies courses evidencing his interest in government and politics.

Bennett Randin (SD 11, Pct 51) - At age 20, Bennett is a full-time college student at UH Clear Lake in the 2nd Semester of his Jr. year. He worked on the Briscoe Cain for State Rep Campaign in southeast Harris County. His home is in Precinct 51 in the City of Deer Park in east Harris County. Bennett is an unabashed conservative amid others his age who are overly instilled with political correctness. He is a part of the Webb Society. The Club's purpose is to share Texas history and help keep people apprised of current State of Texas government issues and affairs.

Mary Miranda (SD 11, Pct 333) - Margie is a native Houstonian who resides in the Seabrook area. She is very committed to her Christian faith and in fact, maintains her own prayer ministry. She works as a human resources recruiter. Margie's is currently providing a home for her 24-year-old son and newlywed wife. After many years of being inactive, she now feels like it is time for her to get involved in her community to help bring God back into our schools and prevent our basic freedoms of expression.

Kristy Bridges (SD 13, Pct 20) Knowing a conservative is overseeing instruction to middle schoolers in HISD was a happy discovery. From her office at Pershing Middle School, Kristy is a special education case manager over 14 HISD middle schools. Kristy proposes to tackle Pct 20 just south of downtown: east of Main St and running from Gray St on the North to Wheeler St on the South, where Kristy and husband, Scott, reside, to Almeda & Crawfor on the east up to Tuam and US 59. Kristy said she would like to see "more conservatives on the School Board." She believes in making sure our Constitution is followed. Kristy wants to make being a conservative not such a taboo thing in her area, and she wants to bring the Republican community together. One of the interesting ideas she floated was targeted digital Facebook ads. Christy is a former Texas Rangers Foundation - Lifetime Member.

Lawrence McGaffie II (SD 13, Pct. 318) Lawrence become politically engaged for the first time during the 2016 campaign, motivated by Donald Trump and the America First agenda. Lawrence is an active member of Houston Young Republicans and the MLK Association of black Republicans and was encouraged to apply by Texas Republican black engagement director R.W. Bray. He is committed to championing conservative principles of the Republican Party in his heavily Democrat southwest Houston precinct and is a pro-life economic and social conservative who embraces the principles espoused by the party platform. He strongly believes in promoting the conservative values of opportunity in minority areas ruined by Democrat leadership. Lawrence, 30 years old, is married father of three and attends Brentwood Baptist Church.

Sonny Khatua (SD 13, Pct 318) Sonny moved to the United States 20 years ago from India. He attained his U.S. Citizenship in 2015. Sonny has been active in several prior campaigns in the Sugar Land/Fort Bend area for Congressman Pete Olson. In 2016, Sonny served as an intern for the HCRP. He is a graduate of Houston Baptist University and is now in his first year of law school. Sonny has now moved our of his parents' home in Sugar Land into Pct 345, which is in the area to the southwest of the Southwest Freeway on both sides of Chimney Rock in
the area of many heavily Hispanic multifamily apartment complexes. He will likely remain in that area while he attends law school, help insure honest elections in that area, and seek to make a positive impression on his pro family and high work ethic in that neighborhood.

**Nancy Furst** (SD 13, Pct. 402) Nancy is a realtor and a former chair of the Houston Association of Realtors and has long been active in local politics through HAR. She has a strong Republican primary voting history, volunteered for Bill King’s 2015 mayoral campaign and supported Ted Cruz’s senate and presidential campaigns. She is also an active member of Lakewood Church, previously serving as a prayer partner and section host and assisting with medical mission conferences. Nancy’s views are solidly conservative, she is enthusiastic about growing the Republican Party in her heavily Democrat precinct and she has already recruited a volunteer to help her work the precinct.

**Patricia Ricklefsen** (SD 13, Pct 559) - "Trish" is a Board Member of the Royal Palms HOA in Precinct 559, which covers a large area south of Westheimer to the Westpark Tollway to as far east as Briarpark and as far west as Wilcrest and Woodland Park Dr. In the past election, Trish served as Alternate Judge in Precinct 559. She has lived in this Precinct since 2014 and is a Real Estate Broker and a Clinical Program Director. She is enthusiastic about our new Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos and likes her advocacy of greater access to school choice.

**Landon Keating** (SD 13, Pct 656) - Landon Keating, age 26, has just graduated from the St. Mary's Law School in San Antonio. He grew up in a household with a liberal mom and a conservative dad. Landon graduated from Bellaire High School. After having started college in 2007 in Pennsylvania, he cam back to the Houston area and graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 2011 before attending law school. He has spent time clerking with the 14th Court of Appeals and has worked under Judge Martha Jamison and Judge Tim Weiss. He seeks to represent Precinct 656 in NE Houston in the Highway 59, E. Mt. Houston Rd. Area..

**Josh Garcia** (SD 13, Pct. 722) Josh is 25 years old and is becoming politically engaged for the first time. The 2016 presidential campaign and courses he is taking in college caused him to reexamine his political orientation and he found the Republican Party aligns more closely to his conservative beliefs. During his interview, he expressed conservative views on both social and economic issues and committed to serving as an alternate election judge in his precinct and promoting the Republican Party in his neighborhood. Josh grew up in the precinct and attends St. Benedict Catholic Church. He works as a personal banker at Frost Bank and is pursuing a bachelor degree in business at the University of Houston. Despite his political inexperience, Josh struck the committee has eager, sincere and capable. Although Josh did not have a primary voting history or previous political involvement, the committee believes that – with the right training – Josh can be an effective precinct chair and help the party make inroads into this very heavily Democrat (more than 90 percent) precinct.

**Cory Liu** (SD 30, Pct 30)- Cory was born in Austin of parents who were provided visas to study at the University of Texas and allowed to remain in the U.S. Cory’s educational credentials are impeccable. He graduated from the University of Chicago undergraduate and graduated from Harvard Law School. He practices business litigation in a downtown Houston law firm and proclaims himself a strong Christian lawyer. He has previously clerked for some Republican appellate judges in the 6th Court of Appeals in Kentucky. Cory will be an asset in attracting other young Asians to the Republican Party.
Marianne Martinez (SD 15, Pct. 364) Marianne’s political conversion did not happen until mid-2016, and she had previously voted in some Democrat primaries. This concerned the committee, but after a thorough interview exploring her political views and her reasons for becoming a Republican and considering her recent volunteer efforts for the party, the committee voted to recommend her. Marianne says she did not start paying close attention to the presidential race until the summer of 2016, but when she tuned in, Donald Trump’s message on the economy, immigration and strong borders resonated with her and she began to realize the Republican Party was more closely aligned to her values than the Democrat Party. She then contacted the Harris County Republican Party to volunteer, and she was appointed an early voting clerk at the Acres Home location. She also served as a poll worker on Election Day. She also became involved with Latinos for Trump. Following the election, Marianne reached out to her precinct chair, Jared Field, offering to help in any way she could. Jared invited Marianne to the Executive Committee meeting in February where she met with others in SD 15. Because of increasing work and family commitments, Jared recently resigned as precinct chair and recommended Marianne to replace him. Marianne is an Army veteran, former teacher and currently studying for her real estate license. She is pro-life, a pro-Second Amendment gun owner who embraces the conservative principles of the Republican Party platform and is committed to growing the party in her neighborhood.

Leo Kozadinos (SD 15, Pct. 896) Leo has a perfect Republican primary history and had been active in the party during the early 2000s. During that time he was active in Houston Young Republicans, served as an election clerk, precinct election judge and as a delegate to senate district and state conventions. Donald Trump’s presidential campaign motivated him to become re-engaged in the political activism. He volunteered for Trump’s campaign and now wants to help grow the party and promote the conservative agenda in his Museum District precinct. Leo works in real estate and has lived in the neighborhood for 15 years.

Jason Murphy (SD17, Pct 569) - After having tried to turn over his precinct to another younger applicant, Jason Murphy is returning to service his Larchmont (Southwest Fwy, Richmond, Rice) Area Precinct with a great deal of enthusiasm. Born in New Orleans but here since age 4, Jason is a solid 5R Republican Primary voter whom has been involved in the GOP since College Republicans. Jason is in the disposable medical products business and together with his wife, Sheridan, very involved in raising their 9-year-old daughter.

Harry Woodstrom (SD 17, Pct 751) - Harry is a solid 5R Republican Primary Voter. He commits to take on more face-to-face personal contact with the voters in his Katy Area precinct located west of Mason Rd. He has served as President of his Home Owners Association. Harry served 12 years in the U.S. Navy before a career with Northern Natural Gas Company, where he worked in computer systems and software. He says: "As Precinct Chair, I want to register voters, educate voters, and represent voters in my precinct as well as provide a safe and convenient polling location."

Christopher Okwegba (SD 17, Pct. 773) Christopher came to the U.S. from Nigeria about 30 years ago and works as a manager at the state correctional facility in Richmond. His beliefs align closely with the conservative principles in the party platform, and during the interview he expressed his support for gun rights, limited government and opposition to abortion. He believes Republicans are the party of self-reliance and Democrats are the party of dependence on government. He is thankful for the opportunities America has given him and wants to promote conservative principles in his community. However, because of his lack of previous political involvement or any primary voting history, a majority of the committee was initially reluctant to recommend his application. However, Christopher persisted, and in the following weeks he...
attended a precinct chair training held by the Training & Development Committee and met with Bob Hall, who gave him a positive recommendation. At its next meeting, the Vacancy Committee voted unanimously to recommend Christopher. In such a heavily Democrat precinct, the committee believes it is vital to have someone like Christopher serving as an alternate election judge and to reaching out to voters in his neighborhood as a precinct chair.

**Marlin Williford** (SD 17, Pct. 899) Marlin is president of the Kelliwood/Nottingham HOA and his lived in his neighborhood for 18 years. He has been a supporter of John Culberson as well as of other local campaigns. He also served as an election worker in the 2016 general election. Marlin works in real estate development and through his involvement in his HOA, knows many of the residents in his precinct. His conservative views align well with the party platform and with his roots in the community, the committee believes he can effectively organize his precinct and promote the Republican Party in his neighborhood.

**Ballot Security Committee Report**  
**Chair: Alan Vera**

1. **2017 Election Staffing**

Even though the 2017 elections are technically non-partisan, the Ballot Security Committee is still working with the County Clerk to place HCRP election judges in early voting locations for the May elections.

2. **Election Worker Database**

Thanks to a generous donation from Kathaleen Wall and some hard work by the HCRP Staff, we are nearing completion of the first interactive database of election workers for HCRP. When completed, this database will speed up the appointment process and will help ensure that we don’t miss any Republicans who want to work elections in Harris County.

3. **HCRP Election Law Initiatives**

The HCRP Ballot Security Committee has been working with our Party Chair, our Chief Legal Counsel and 3 state reps on several election law initiatives for this session. Among the initiatives still winding their way through the 85th Legislature are:

   a. An overhaul of voting in nursing homes and state homes, getting away from problem mail ballots. State Rep Tom Oliverson
   b. Elevating the criminal classification of at least 2 types of election law violations. State Rep Mike Schofield
   c. Limiting voter assistance to what’s allowed by the Texas Election Code. State Rep Valoree Swanson
   d. Improving the ability of the Ballot Board Signature Verification Committee to reject mail ballots that don’t pass the signature comparison test. State Rep Valoree Swanson

4. **HCRP BSC Activity in the 85th Legislature**

Representatives from HCRP BSC have been present and have testified on election bills in the Senate and House since committee hearings began. On a weekly basis State Reps and Senators from across the state request supporting testimony from HCRP BSC for their election
law bills. Further, HCRP BSC members have been invited to contribute to the writing of committee substitute bills as some initiatives move through the 85th Legislature.

5. **Executive Committee Resolution for BSC Legislative Testimony**
The Resolution passed by the Executive Committee in the February meeting has proven very helpful in 2 ways: 1) in testimony on certain proposed legislation, HCRP BSC has been able to claim the support of the full HCRP EC in critical testimony; and 2) in our own internal deliberations on whether to support or oppose particular bills we’ve relied on the EC Resolution to guide our position.

HCRP BSC is grateful to the Executive Committee for this support and guidance.

**Report of the Candidates Committee – May 2017**
Chair: Sean Cheben

1. **Leadership Institute Candidate Training**
The Candidates Committee is pleased to announce a candidate training event in partnership with the Leadership Institute (www.LeadershipInstitute.org). This event, which will be held on August 19th at the City Centre Studio Movie Grill, will be an excellent educational opportunity for anyone interested in running for public office at any level or working on a campaign. Topics include:
   - Campaign Finance/Funding
   - Media and Public Relations
   - Campaign Organization and Strategic Planning

A registration form has been included with this report. Please return your completed form, along with the registration fee of $85 per participant, to HCRP HQ (7232 Wynnwood Lane, 77008).

2. **Important Dates for Those Seeking Elected Office**
If you’re considering a run for elected office in either the November 2017 local election or the March 2018 Republican Primary, here are some dates to keep in mind!

   - Saturday, July 22: First day to file for place on General Election Ballot
   - Monday, August 21 @5PM: Last day to file for place on General Election Ballot
   - Monday, October 23: First day of early voting
   - Friday, November 3: Last day of early voting
   - Tuesday, November 7: Election Day

   - Tuesday, September 12: First day to file for place on Primary Ballot for precinct chair
   - Saturday, November 11: First day to file for place on Primary Ballot for all other offices
   - Monday, December 11 @ 6PM: Filing deadline for candidates
   - Tuesday, February 20: First day of early voting
   - Friday, March 2: Last Day of Early Voting
   - Tuesday, March 6: Election Day

3. **Republican Party of Texas Campaign Management School**
Can’t wait until August for campaign training? The Republican Party of Texas will be hosting their 2017 Campaign Management School July 19th-21st, 2017 in Austin, Texas! This 3-Day Campaign Management training will feature some of the best consultants and political operatives from across the state! The deadline to apply is Monday, June 26th.
Local Government Committee Report  
Chair: Dan Comstock  

April 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes for Quarterly Report  

Members Present: Dan Comstock, Jim McSpadden (left at approximately 7:18p.m.), Charlie Cupples, Ryan Nietsche, Don Berndt, Cynthia Resendez, Kelly Horsley, James Rains, Janie Braham, Keith Nielsen  

Members Absent: Grace Ekpo, Shannon Terry, Jose Romero. James McSpadden was present at the beginning but not during any motions or voting.  

Vacancies: None  

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:32p.m., by Chairman Dan Comstock.  

Formal Roll Call and Determination of Quorum or Super Quorum:  
There was a quorum present with nine (9) members in attendance.  

Volunteer Assignment of Scribe for this Meeting: (if secretary absent). Secretary was in attendance.  

Review and Approval of Agenda:  
The agenda for the meeting was sent prior to the meeting via e-mail, and was reviewed and approved by all members present.  

Review and Approval of Minutes:  
The previous meeting minutes were not presented.  

Brief Review of Item to be Considered by the Committee:  
The committee was engaged to review the assignment referred to the LGC at the October edition of the Harris County Republican Party (HCRP) Executive Committee Meeting. The committee had been assigned the task of reviewing the resolution presented by Scott Bowen SD, 11 Chairman, “Taxpayer and Landowner Protection from High-Speed Rail”.  

Local Government Committee (LGC)  
Page 2  
The resolution was presented as a response to the Texas Central Partners’ plan to implement a “bullet” train system that contains stations in Houston, Dallas and the Brazos Valley. The LGC previously hosted panel discussions with presentations from groups that were in favor and against the train system. Over a series of meetings, the LGC has crafted a working resolution to present to the HCRP Executive Committee.  

Discussion:  
Jim McSpadden presented an e-mail with an attachment of a portion of the HCRP Bylaws and Rules of Order (attached to these minutes), that essentially precludes the LGC from presenting to the HCRP Executive Committee unless the presentation requirements per the HCRP Bylaws have been met. The LGC chose to deliberate and continue to develop a resolution to present to the HCRP Executive Committee. There was an action item introduced by Vice Chairman Kelly Horsley to suspend the rules at the HCRP Executive Committee Meeting with Janie Branham
agreeing to provide a second. There were various motions made by committee members which were all seconded and successfully passed by a majority present with one abstention) to reorder the "whereas" portions of the draft resolution and to add necessary details to enhance understanding. James Rains moved that the LGC accept the completed draft resolution developed by the LGC, which was seconded by Janie Branham. A vote was held with the majority in favor with one member not in favor and one member abstaining. There was subsequent discussion on the strategies needed to present the completed resolution approved by the committee.

The vote on the Local Government Committee “NEW Taxpayer and Landowner Protection Resolution” was seven (7) AYES, one (1) NAY and one (1) ABSTENTION.

**Next Meetings:**
There was no discussion on when the next meeting will occur.

**Adjournment:**
Meeting adjourned by consent of the committee at 8:30p.m.

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**Young Leadership Development Committee Report**
Chair: Ben Proler

The Young Leadership Development Committee hosted a happy hour in conjunction with Houston Young Republicans and Maverick PAC to recruit members for the upcoming 2017 HCLC class. HCLC is a 7 class program for young professionals looking to get involved with the party. It covers topics ranging from party structure to fundraising to media. The class is set to begin in May. Many great candidates for the class have already applied and their applications are in the process of being reviewed. There is still time to apply, so if you know a young professional who might be interested they learn more and apply at www.harriscountygop.com/hclc

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**Training and Development Committee Report**
Chair: Charlotte Lampe

With two new members added to the T&D Committee - Gerry Vander - Lyn and Patrick Gant - Paul Simpson appointee, the Committee has formed a new presentation to motivate and educate our fellow Precinct Chairs for the upcoming elections. It is our goal to work with multi levels in the training process to insure an activated Republican force to KEEP TEXAS RED! In addition, Bob Hall has joined the Training and Development Committee and will bring the much needed face to face ON GOING training at HCRP headquarters. Please check the HCRP website for these ON GOING classes that are available to ALL Precinct Chairs.

To that purpose there will now be a program to insure each Precinct Chair, GOP Activists or volunteer will have the actual tools to get the actual results needed for our Republican candidates to be victorious. This will be critical training to battle against a determined sea of outside money and anti - Trump Democrat angst that is flooding Harris County and our beloved TEXAS.

The HCRP Training and Development Committee strongly suggest that ALL Precinct Chairs, GOP Activists and volunteers take advantage of the training that is being offered and to become
a Certified Precinct Chair. This process will instill the much-needed knowledge and technology we as Republicans must utilize.

The Certification Training Program is listed below - should you have any questions please call HCRP Headquarters or Charlotte Lampe, Chair / Leslie Shatto, Vice Chair.

Name________________
Precinct______________

HCRP Training Program Task Items

Attend a Welcoming Interview with Welcoming Volunteers at HCRP Hdqtrs.
Be able to access, navigate and utilize the information available on following websites: www.harriscountygop.com  www.hctax.net  www.harrisvotes.com
   • Attend and complete the HCRP Training & Development Hands on Training.
     Three training meetings with practical exercise.
Advantage 101 Call from Home and Leadership Training
Advantage 102 Blockwalking and Leadership Training
NationBuilder 101 and Leadership Training.
   • (Learn just what is needed to find voters and volunteers)
   • Do the field training using Advantage Block Walking, Advantage Call from Home and NationBuilder
Knock on 50 doors in the precinct using Advantage Block Walking software.
Make 100 calls using Advantage Call from Home software.
Find 20 volunteers using NationBuilder.
   • Use learned tools above to invite potential volunteers for a home meeting.
Have the first home meeting in the precinct.

The Hands on Training Program to be completed in 90 days after the new precinct chairman is installed, or before the next Executive Committee meeting after he or she is installed.
Completed Tasks will be checked when completed & presented to the certification team.
Completion Date _____________________ Verified _______________________

Committee Members
Leslie Shatto, Vice Chair - Margie Forster, Secretary - Terrence Boggs, Committee Member - Glenn Heathcock, Committee Member - Sharon Jennings, Committee Member
Roman Klein, Committee Member - Jeff Larson, Committee Member - Tabu Winslow-Morris, Committee Member - Nancy Scott, Committee Member - Gerry Vander- Lyn, Committee Member - Bob Hall, Outreach & Training

Engagement Committee Executive Committee Report
Chair: Mike Bercu

The Engagement Committee engages organizations and sponsors events in communities that the Harris County Republican Party has identified a need to increase the Republican vote. The committee provides leadership, seeks funding, and volunteers. We collect names and work with the HCRP to get these people in Nation Builder for further follow-up. Since getting votes is
everyone’s job we must facilitate ways for the Harris County Republican Party and activists to be more active in engagement.

We have sponsored and/or participated in events in the Asia, Indian, Hispanic, African-American and Jewish communities. We have collected names from attendees for follow-up. Many lean our way and/or are Republicans that regularly vote. As a side benefit we are able to identify new Precinct Chair candidates for vacant Precincts.

In addition, we have identified volunteers that want to work on party matters such as engagement, block walking, calling etc. If you have some language challenges in your precincts let us know. We probably have someone to help you.

Events this year:

Chinese Community Center Lunar Year, Humble Rodeo, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Luncheon featuring Commissioner Jack Morman, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Annual Luncheon, Vietnamese New Year Lien Hoa Temple Kosher Chili Cook-off, We the People (formerly LULAC Council 4287) Luncheons Memorial remembering the Fall of Saigon

We encourage all of you to volunteer to man our booths and/or attend the events and meetings. We publish this information in the HCRP newsletter. Also visit and like the HCRP Engagement Facebook Page for more news and events. This is a big city. We need for all of us to participate.
HISD Proposition 1 Resolution

WHEREAS: Austin agencies continue to take taxing authority from populous areas, subverting the will of local taxpayers; and,

WHEREAS: A vote of “NO” on HISD Proposition 1 will permanently detach certain high-value properties in the Galleria, Downtown Houston and Greenway Plaza valued in the billions; and,

WHEREAS: The resultant loss of tax revenue to HISD would result in higher property taxes to remaining taxpayers, including all HISD residential taxpayers, to cover this loss of tax revenue;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the HCRP Executive Committee supports passage of HISD Proposition 1. This will maintain high-value properties in the Galleria, Downtown Houston and Greenway Plaza on the HISD tax rolls, in turn protecting other property taxpayers from tax increases which would result if these properties were permanently detached and recaptured by the State to support other school districts.

Precinct 70 Joe Pelati, Precinct 54 Doug Markham, Precinct 360 Sean Cheben, Precinct 710 Annie Goedicke, Precinct 637 Mathew Brown, Precinct 33 Rolando Garcia, Precinct 21 Thomas Wang, Precinct 886 Ryan Nietsche, Precinct 37 Kathleen Osborne, Precinct 730 Joseph McReynolds
Local Ballot Initiatives for Accelerating the Liberty Movement Resolution

1. Whereas, Thousands of young conservative reformers receive training at conferences and in webinars every year on how to be effective as advocates for liberty that are organized by non-profits in the small government movement;

2. Whereas, to our knowledge, these training sessions do not appear to include information about charter amendments, recall, initiatives and referenda, powerful tools of political reform that are available in home rule cities in most of the states where petitions can be used to put propositions on local ballots;

3. Whereas, in Texas local ballot initiatives have been used to protect and restore liberty on several occasions so that citizen initiated charter amendments adopted by voters have caused one city to stop putting fluoride in city water, blocked rail projects in two cities with high hurdles to be met beforehand, removed red light cameras from two cities, mandated more prudence in the fiscal affairs of two cities, and saved three cities from citywide zoning; be it

RESOLVED, That the Harris County Republican Party Executive Committee recognizes that local ballot initiatives can be used to roll back municipal mission creep, rein in a growing city tax burden, bring a halt to crony capitalism in city halls across America, relax regulations on business, foster new norms of governance for all levels, and simultaneously help members of the conservative movement who organize such reform campaigns gain positive name ID that will boost their prospects of success when running for political office, and

RESOLVED, That the HCRP urges non-profit organizations doing activist training to include local ballot initiatives in their programs, and

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee directs the chairman to post this resolution on the party website, notify the 16 non-profits listed below of our decision, and communicate our desire to the national network of Republican parties at all levels that they join the HCRP in this endeavor.


Submitted and co-signed by the following precinct chairs:

NEW Taxpayer and Landowner Protection Resolution

Whereas: Amendment V of The Constitution of the United States declares that: “No person shall be held to answer … nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation”; and,

Whereas: The Fifth Amendment: Protecting Private Property section of the Republican National Platform 2016, on pages 14 and 15, states that: “That is why the Fifth Amendment declares that private property may not be taken for public use without just compensation”; and, points out the undermining of the Constitution by its Kelo vs. City of New London, Connecticut decision which allows the use of eminent domain not only for vital “public use” but also for “public purpose”; and, calls for the states to nullify the impact of Kelo through their legislatures and state constitutional amendments and, by “declaring that private property may be taken only for true public use……”; and,

Whereas: Plank 37 of the Republican Party of Texas 2016 Platform declares: QUOTE:

Property Rights- Property ownership and free enterprise, the foundation of our collective wealth, must not be abridged nor denied by government. We support legislation to protect these bedrock rights. Areas of concern are: annexation, eminent domain (including foreign entities), property forfeiture, extraterritorial jurisdiction, seizure for public or private development, natural resources and conservation easements, groundwater and/or mineral rights, nationalization of lands, and the preservation of our 4th Amendment right to privacy. Property owners should be notified of their rights regarding condemnation, annexation, or easement; and the condemner should be required to petition a court of jurisdiction to show public necessity. Taking of property should result in immediate compensation of fair market value to the owner. These issues should be administered by elected officials accountable to voters. UNQUOTE; and,

Whereas: Plank 170 of the Republican Party of Texas 2016 Platform declares: QUOTE:

Bailouts and Subsidies- We encourage government to divest its ownership of all business that should be run in the private sector and allow the free market to prevail. We oppose all bailouts of domestic and foreign government entities, states and all businesses, public and private. We oppose local government handouts to businesses and other private entities in the name of economic development. UNQUOTE; and,

Whereas: Texans have repeatedly affirmed through our elections, our activism, and our laws that the right to private property is an indispensable facet of our way of life; and,
Whereas: The Republican Party of Harris County is opposed to threatening to use the power of eminent domain to seize and separate land in its desired right-of-way before demonstrating “public necessity” to a court of jurisdiction and before a court of jurisdiction has issued its authorization; and,

Whereas: Harris County Republican Party is a champion of free enterprise, and does not believe it proper to evaluate the business investment decisions of a free enterprise entity engaged in lawful enterprise. However, it is right and proper for the State of Texas to put into place needed legislation to prevent any form of bailouts resulting from bad business decisions or from unfortunate changes in market conditions. It is also right and proper to put into place needed legislation to prevent any business from creating unhealthy conditions for its citizens in the proximity of the construction and operations of that enterprise.

Whereas: All Texas private businesses should support the enactment of protections against bailouts and against unjust private property takings. These measures would reassure taxpayers that we will not be responsible for privately funded projects, reassure landowners in the right-of-way, and inspire public confidence in all privately funded projects.

Whereas: It is our role as Texans and as Republicans to stand up for the rights of property owners and taxpayers; and, we support business owners’ right to conduct their business as they see fit in accordance with Plank 196 in the 2016 Texas State Platform.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

• In keeping with the property rights plank of the Republican Party of Texas 2016 Platform, which states that “the condemnor should be required to petition a court of jurisdiction to show “public necessity” before threatening to take or use, or attempting to take or use, any property, the Harris County Republican Party opposes the use or threat of the use of eminent domain to seize land for any desired right-of-way, even when “public necessity” is self-evident, until such court of jurisdiction has ruled in favor of the condemnor; and,

• Once “public necessity” (not to be confused with public purpose such as improving a tax base for a state or local entity) has been recognized by a court of jurisdiction, that the State of Texas through its legislature make it easier for a transportation company to vary its route to minimize the use of eminent domain; and,

• In keeping with Principle #9 of the Republican Party of Texas 2016 Platform, which reiterates our belief in a “free enterprise society unencumbered by government interference or subsidies,” the Harris County Republican Party opposes the appropriation of any taxpayer funds toward any private Texas business in any capacity, and supports legislative efforts to ensure that such an appropriation cannot occur; and,

• This resolution shall be certified by the Chairman of the Harris County Republican Party and physically or electronically mailed to all Republican State Representatives, State Senators, and County officials within five (5) days of passage.
Attachment A

Passage of the “NEW Taxpayer and Landowner Protection Resolution” by the Local Government Committee:

On April 25, 2017, after an official meeting call at least ten (10) days in advance, the Local Government Committee met at HCRP Headquarters.

A quorum was established with nine (9) members in attendance.

A motion to adopt the “NEW Taxpayer and Landowner Protection Resolution” was made, seconded, and passed with seven (7) “aye” votes.

The following precinct chairs have endorsed this resolution:
  Don Berndt Precinct 0564 Chair, James Rains Precinct 0038, Kelly Horsley Precinct 0877 Chair, Charles Cupples, Janie Brenham Precinct 0659 Chair, Dan Comstock Precinct 0759 Chair, Jose Romero Precinct 0624 Chair, Evan Norton Precinct 0430 Chair, Rodney Deschamps Precinct 0479 Chair, Cody Sain Precinct 0380 Chair, Thomas Bazan Precinct 0661 Chair, Melissa Rowell Precinct 0480 Chair, Doc Greene Precinct 0709 Chair, Mike Palmquist Precinct 0633 Chair
The Leadership Institute presents

Grassroots Candidates Training School

Saturday, August 19, 2017

8:00AM to 3:00PM (registration opens at 7:30AM)
Studio Movie Grill @ City Centre – 822 Town & Country Blvd, 77024

Please return completed form – including registration fee of $85 per participant (payable to HCRP) – to HCRP HQ
7372 Wynnwood Lane, Houston TX 77008

An excellent educational opportunity for anyone interested in running for public office at any level or working on a campaign. Topics covered include:

- Campaign finance and fundraising strategy
- Media and public relations
- Campaign organization and strategic planning

For more information, visit www.leadershipinstitute.org!

Registration deadline is August 12, 2017. No walk-ins. Fee includes breakfast and lunch.

For questions, please email sean.cheben@gmail.com

Last Name: ___________________________________ First Name: ___________________________________
Address: _____________________________________ Email: ________________________________________
City: _________________________________________ State: ______________ Zip: _______________________
Employer: ____________________________________ Occupation: ________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________ VUID: _______________________________________

Don't know your VUID? Look it up at www.hctax.net/voter/search

Payment Account Classification (for FEC reporting): Personal Company Campaign

Which office do you intend to run for, and when? ________________________________________________

Are you an HCRP Precinct Chair? Yes No If yes, which precinct? ________________________________

Indicate your Republican primary voting history:


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